

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a composition, said composition comprising a heterologous gene product and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) inserting a gene coding for a the heterologous gene product into an expression vector;

(b) transforming said expression vector into a commensal *Neisseria*;

(c) expressing said heterologous gene product in said commensal *Neisseria*;

(d) obtaining an immunogenic component or extract said heterologous gene product from the *Neisseria* of (c); and

(e) combining the immunogenic component or extract the heterologous gene product of (d) with a the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said heterologous gene product is selected from (1) a product of a gene of a non-*Neisseria* organism and (2) a product of a gene of a pathogenic *Neisseria*.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said commensal *Neisseria* is selected from the group consisting of *N. cinerea*, *N. lactamica*, *N. elongata*, *N. flava*, *N. flavescens*, *N. polysaccharea*, *N. sicca*, *N. mucosa*, *N. perflava* and *N. subflava*.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the commensal *Neisseria* expresses the heterologous gene product is the product of a gene or a fragment thereof from a pathogenic *Neisseria*.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein ~~the commensal Neisseria expresses a gene which encodes a protein from *N. meningitidis* the heterologous gene product is selected from the group consisting of transferrin binding protein; a Cu,Zn-SOD; an NspA; a porin; an outer membrane protein and fragments thereof.~~

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5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said obtaining comprises:

- (i) suspending said commensal Neisseria cells in the presence of detergent; and
- (ii) incubating the suspension so as to extract a protein fraction from the cells.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the protein fraction is of molecular weight 50 kDa or lower when measured by SDS-PAGE.

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7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the protein fraction is of molecular weight at least from 40 kDa and up to 90 kDa when measured by SDS-PAGE.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the protein fraction is of molecular weight at least 80 kDa when measured by SDS-PAGE.

9-18. (Canceled).

19. (Original) A composition obtained by the method of claim 1.

20-21 (Canceled).